

4. Christ is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15) In Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9). Christ is the express image of God's person (Heb. 1:3).
5. Christ is the firstborn over all creation. (Col. 1:15) Firstborn denotes Christ sovereignty as King of kings and Lord of lords as well as His priority over all created beings (Rev. 1:5).
6. Christ created all things that are in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers. (Col. 1:16) Although Jehovah is Creator and Originator of all things, He involved Christ in the creation of all things so that all things were created by, through, and for Christ giving Him preeminence over all things.
7. Christ is before all things. (Col. 1:17) Except for God, there is none other before Christ.
8. In Christ all things consist. (Col. 1:17) Christ as Creator is also Sustainer of all things "upholding all things by the power of His word" (Heb. 1:3).
9. Christ is the firstborn from the dead. (Col. 1:18) Christ rose from the dead to become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (I Cor. 15:20).
10. Christ is the head of the body - the church. (Col. 1:18) The head of something always holds the preeminent position. So, Christ holds the preeminent position in the church which is His body.

Now this is an impressive list. Although time and space do not permit in depth comment on these items, spend time meditating on their significance. With exception to God alone, is there anything in which Christ is not preeminent or supreme? Was it not Christ who created this world including man and woman? Was it not Christ who created all that exists in the heavens of which we have only a vague understanding? Is it not Christ who keeps all that was created in perfect harmony? Was it not Christ who delivered salvation to man and shed His own blood? Is it not in Christ that the saved live today?

What is owed to one who is preeminent over all that is in heaven and on earth? Well, we can give nothing to Christ that He does not already possess. But, man having been given rule over his own mind and body, may freely give himself over to God and Christ. Or, man may freely give himself over to sin. Paul says: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Ro. 12:1-2)

We are called to do much less than Christ in service to God. Christ freely gave Himself to be a sacrifice through death. We are called to simply offer ourself as a living sacrifice to God through obedience to Christ. What do you think? If Christ, as the preeminent One above all creation, died for us, should we not live for Him?

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

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# Welcome

to the

## Church of Christ

meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:

The Life of Jesus Witnesses to His Divine Sonship  
John 8:46

Tonight: The Seeker's Talents



### Congregational Meeting Times:

#### Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Evening Service 6:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

**New Members:**  
La Veda Harmon was baptized

## Visitors

*The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.*

## Important dates to remember:

### February:

Sun. 21st - Teachers Meeting at 5:00 pm.

Sun 28th - Elders, Deacons & preachers meeting

### Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun. 14th - Group 2 meets after evening service

Fri. 26th - Family night potluck at the Uptegrove's, 6:30pm



### *Ladies House to House Fellowship*

Lesson Book: "Developing Inner Strength, Living in the Joy of God's Love"

**Next class: Mavrey Uptegrove's Home on February 21st**

Please prepare lesson 10. Lunch will be provided.

### Classes

**Young Adults Class:** Fridays at Caleb's home. See Caleb for details.

**"Gathering" meeting:** meets today at 3:30 at the building. All ages.

### **Anniversaries:**

Craig and Tina Pitt

February 14

## Jesus is Preeminent

*by Alan McNabb*

*Proteuo* only appears in Colossians 1:18. Paul uses this word to express the position of Christ in relationship to all things in heaven and on earth. In Colossians 1:13-18, Paul explains the reasons Christ is considered preeminent as well as God's divine plan in making Him preeminent.

Paul says:

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

The greek word *proteuo* means to be first in rank and influence. It is most often translated preeminence, but is also translated supremacy (NIV). In our language, preeminent is defined as "having paramount rank, dignity, or importance" (Webster). And, supreme is defined as "highest in rank or authority ... highest in degree or quality" (Webster). Now the point is that Christ is above all others whether in heaven or earth with exception only to God who Himself made Christ preeminent.

Why is Christ preeminent? From Colossians 1:13-18, we learn that Christ is preeminent for the following reasons:

1. In Christ's kingdom is deliverance from the power of darkness. (Col. 1:13) God determined from the foundation of the world that deliverance from sin would be by, through, and in His Son (Eph. 1:3-4, 2:10).
2. In Christ we have redemption through His blood. (Col. 1:14) In Christ we have been redeemed - purchased. A price had to be paid so that men obedient to Christ could be cleansed from sin. That price is Christ's blood (I Cor. 6:20).
3. In Christ we have the forgiveness of sin through His blood. (Col. 1:14) Only in and through Christ may sins be forgiven (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 1:3).

*Continued on back page*